

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 2:20 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Cc: Matt B
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Request for ACRE Review – Township Blocking Agritourism Activity via Refusal to Allow Legal Sewage Solution

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Dear ACRE Program Team,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the owner and operator of a small working farm in Hunlock Creek, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. I am writing to request your assistance under the ACRE program regarding a situation where local municipal policy is effectively prohibiting a lawful agritourism activity on my farm by refusing to allow a state-sanctioned sewage solution.

I am in the process of developing a small, seasonal agritourism campsite on my farm property. This project is fully aligned with Pennsylvania's protections for agritourism activities under Act 27 of 2021 and is intended to support the economic sustainability of my agricultural operation.

To meet sewage requirements, I have proposed the installation of a legally compliant holding tank system that adheres to all applicable standards under 25 Pa. Code § 73.62 and the PA Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537). However, I have been informed by the township Sewage Enforcement Officer that Hunlock Township has no ordinance allowing holding tanks, and therefore refuses to permit any system of that type—regardless of the system's compliance with DEP standards or the seasonal, low-impact nature of the use.

This refusal leaves me with no viable path forward to develop a restroom facility for guests, and thus blocks any ability to operate the campsite, despite my willingness to fully comply with environmental and public health requirements. I believe this constitutes a de facto prohibition of an agritourism activity that is otherwise permitted and protected under Pennsylvania law.

I respectfully request that the ACRE Program review this matter and assess whether the township's inaction and refusal to permit a safe, state-legal sewage option is an overreach that unlawfully restricts agricultural activity.

I am happy to provide supporting documentation, including communication with the SEO, maps, proposed system specifications, and a description of the intended agritourism use. Please let me know what materials would be most helpful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]